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[Report for the Berlin Tageblatt.—Translation.]

GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY, *October 18, 1901.*

At the conference held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Post, Dr. Springfeld sought to demonstrate by the aid of charts and plans, the correctness of his theory that the origin of the present epidemic of typhoid fever was to be traced back to a burst pipe in Königssteele. Professor Koch held such an explanation as to the origin of the epidemic as plausible, but remarked, however, that before he gave an expression of opinion on the subject, he would like to visit the waterworks. During the inspection of the works the party were surprised by a startling disclosure. The directors of the waterworks who were likewise present, admitted, namely, that for a long time past a pipe had led directly into the River Ruhr from a spring on the right bank of the river. This pipe had only been removed in September.

We can readily understand the consternation of those men who had for weeks taken the greatest pains to investigate the waterworks, and for this purpose had had repeated and exhaustive interviews with the directors. The branch pipe leading to the River Ruhr had been utilized in times when a small reserve of water was present, and this year had been more frequently used, as the summer had been a particularly dry one.

As the consumption of water on Sundays was less by one-third than on working days, the branch pipe was not made use of on Sundays, or on the first days of the week, because the water which accumulated in the meantime was sufficient. The branch pipe was mostly used between Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The filter installation on the River Ruhr has been doubled this year. The directors of the waterworks state that they had made this increase in the filter system in order to do without the branch pipe and to have it removed. To the question why the directors had, until now, remained silent upon this point, although they must have known that their silence would lead the investigators astray, they gave the somewhat weak explanation that the revelation of the secret would have placed the conduct of the waterworks in a very bad light.

Professor Koch is of the opinion that the cause of the outbreak of the epidemic is not without further evidence to be sought in the direct introduction of Ruhr water into the system, and gave as a reason for his opinion the limitation of the infected area and the freedom from infection of other districts. The measures taken met with the full approval of the professor. He recommended placing the waterworks under a daily bacteriological control. The keeping secret of the above-mentioned fact, which is almost inconceivable, will, it is hoped, meet with the censure which it deserves at the hands of the competent authorities.

Malarial toxins as a remedy for carcinoma.

BERLIN, GERMANY, *October 20, 1901.*

SIR: Professor Loeffler, of Greifswald, the discoverer of the diphtheria bacillus, and who is also a specialist for the treatment of malarial sickness, contributes a paper to the current number of the Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift, in which he discusses a new method of treating cancer. Cancer patients, according to the method proposed by the eminent pathologist, are to be inoculated with mosquito poison or with blood injections from persons suffering with malaria. Professor Loeffller lays stress on the fact that in countries where malaria is prevalent cancer seldom if ever occurs, and he quotes statistics to show that cases of carcinosis are most rare among negroes. Loeffler appeals to physicians, especially doctors practicing in tropical countries, to publish the results of their experience with malaria and carcinosis. The professor also strongly recommends physicians of cancer hospitals to make the necessary experiments to test his theory.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.